MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
8 January, 1974

AM
9:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 20 February, 1974
20 March, 1974.

B. Minutes of November, 1973 meeting.

C. H.J. Res. 841 and H.J. Res. 842, "To provide for the establishment of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac."

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. National Gallery of Art Addition Landscaping Plans.

2. Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology 6th Floor Library Addition.

3. West End Heating Plant, 29th & K Streets, N.W., Erection of Exterior Elevator.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. O.G. 74-84, 1539 27th Street, N.W., New Private Residence.

2. O.G. Informal, 2901 M Street, N.W., National Permanent Federal Savings and Loan Association, New Bank Building.

3. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 74-33, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Huatt Regency Hotel, Resubmission.

2. S.L. 74-35, 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Office Building Addition and Parking Garage.

3. Appendix 2.

C. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Bus Stop Signs.

INTERVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

10:30 1. National Gallery of Art Addition Landscaping Plans.

10:45 2. Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology 6th Floor Library Addition.

11:00 3. West End Heating Plant, 29th & K Streets, N.W., Erection of Exterior Elevator.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

11:15 1. S.L. 74-33, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Resubmission.

11:30 2. S.L. 74-35, 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Office Building Addition and Parking Garage.

11:45 C. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Bus Stop Signs.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
8 January, 1974

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman*
	Hon. Nicolas Arroyo
	Hon. Jane O. Dart
	Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
	Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
	Hon. George A. Weymouth
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary*
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. William A. Bogan
	Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
	Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
	Mrs. Nancy Lusher
	Miss Lynda Smith
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Edward Hromanick*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings were set at Wednesday, 20 February, 1974 and Wednesday, 20 March, 1974.

B. Minutes of November, 1973 meeting were approved after Mr. Stone questioned the extent of coverage of the Mall Master Plan. The Assistant Secretary pointed out that the Minutes were brief because the transcript of that very important item would be attached to the bound minutes. The Members agreed that this was a good way to have a complete record.

C. H.J. Res. 841 and H.J. Res. 842, "To provide for the establishment of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac." Previous approval of this concept was confirmed. EXHIBIT 1.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. National Gallery of Art Plaza Fountain Design. After the Chairman excused himself, being the Director of the National Gallery,

the Secretary presented a model and drawings of the proposed sculpture and paving treatment between the main building of the National Gallery of Art and the partially completed addition at 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. He mentioned that the original schematic solution to this simple rectangular plaza was to have 4th Street cross at grade over the plaza and to have Gallery uses, including a public cafeteria, below. The first scheme had a round fountain with an opening to a lower level court. A revision to this central element was the only major change. The design proposed consisted of a large-scale sculptural grouping of mirrored glass prisms within a semicircle of bollards, flanked by a line of high water jets. Water from the fountains would slide down an inclined surface into the public space below. The prisms would act as skylights for the space as well, giving a variety of shimmering and reflected light within and on top of the underground facilities. The Members discussed the design briefly and then asked to meet with the architect, I. M. Pei.

INTERVIEW

National Gallery of Art Plaza Fountain Design. The project was represented by the architect, Mr. I. M. Pei. After a brief description of the design and the reasons for changing the original scheme, Mr. Pei answered detailed questions about the light and shade patterns on the plaza and talked of the technical study, still under way, on the fountain jets. After he left the room, the Members elected Mr. Stone Acting Vice Chairman and spokesman for the project and discussed their action. The Chairman was invited back into the room and Mr. Stone reported the Commission's general enthusiastic approval with the following concerns: (1) that the water jets should be substantial and when turned off should not present an awkward appearance; (2) that the Highway Department should be advised that the Commission recommends against normal traffic illumination across this plaza; (3) that the largest plant material possible be planted next to the plaza to provide an edge and shade pattern as soon as possible. It was agreed that the action would be transmitted to the National Gallery in a letter to be signed by Mr. Stone.

EXHIBIT 2.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

2. Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology 6th Floor Library Addition. The Secretary presented photographs of the existing building and drawings and a model of the proposed changes to the exterior of this Mall-front musuem. Though he felt there was some question in adding program requirements to this building when most proposed additional functions could be accommodated elsewhere, he pointed out that the exterior visual impact was limited to a 4-foot

increase in the height of the mid-level penthouse parapet. The Chairman suggested that sightlines should be carefully studied to determine the impact to the Mall. The Secretary indicated that project representatives would be at the meeting later in the morning and could answer program and visibility questions then.

3. West End Heating Plant, 29th & K Streets, N.W., Erection of Exterior Elevator. The Assistant Secretary presented photographs and drawings depicting proposed changes to the exterior of this highly visible industrial element on the Georgetown Waterfront near the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Rock Creek Park. The General Services Administration proposed an elevator tower protrusion on the north facade of the building in matching material. The Commission disapproved the concept and the design of the proposal.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. O.G. 74-84, 1539 27th Street, N.W., New Private Residence. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings showing an original and subsequent submission of designs for this single family two-floor brick residence. The proposal replaced an abandoned gas station and the plan had been approved by the Old Georgetown Board subject to facade restudy. On the advice of the Board and working with the Staff the designer and owner had prepared the revised scheme presented to the Commission. The Commission concurred with the direction taken by the Board subject to the Board's final review and approval.

2. O.G. Informal, 2901 M Street, N.W., National Permanent Federal Savings and Loan Association, New Bank Building. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings for the original and final proposals for a pair of new commercial structures for the corner of 29th and M Streets, N.W. in Georgetown. Since this is one of the most prominent corners along the Street, being on axis with the end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the Board had taken great care in suggesting that the traditional buildings have authentic details. The Commission approved the directions given by the Board, subject to the Board's final approval.

3. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 74-33, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Resubmission. The Secretary presented two perspectives and photographs of the previous submission to the Commission for advice on revisions to the design. He recalled that the Commission had

recommended restudy of the glass lobby roof and further expression of structure for the bridge element over the lobby - this had been done. Also, the top floor had been fully glazed to provide a band-topping and several of the corner windows facing the Capitol were two floors high. The Commission felt that the lobby treatment was' improved, but the other changes had not been successful. Further discussion was held later with the architect.

2. S.L. 74-35, 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Office Building Addition and Parking Garage. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and photographs of this proposed addition to an existing white marble office structure within sight of the Capitol. He showed how the office addition was a small triangular space between the existing structure and a new proposed parking garage. The Commission disapproved the design, recommending further study with a solid facade on the garage facing 1st Street and bay spacing harmony between the existing office portion and the new wing. Since no project representatives were present, the action was given through the Staff by means of a Shipstead-Luce action. EXHIBIT 3.

3. Appendix 2, approved.

C. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Bus Stop Signs. The Assistant Secretary presented a full sized model for this new element for Washington's streetscape. The ten foot high, red-white-and-blue steel flag-like elements would be 7,500 in number and used in conjunction with the new image of the city's bus service. The color scheme was designed to match the new bus color scheme. The Assistant Secretary pointed out that the subway graphics and recently approved bus shelters were bronze in color and that there was no precedent for white street furniture in Washington and that there could be some visual confusion because of this new element. The Commission discussed other color schemes for the signs, deciding that they would recommend against the white pole during the interview with project representatives later in the day.

INTERVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology 6th Floor Library Addition. The project was represented by Mr. M. J. Milano of G.S.A., Messers S. A. Bedini and Russell Shank of the Smithsonian Institution and Mr. Walker Cain of New York City, the architect. Mr. Bedini told the Commission of the program requirements and Mr.

Cain answered several questions about the height changes and fenestration of the proposal. The Commission recommended that the fenestration be restudied and indicated that they had no strong objection to the project. EXHIBIT 4.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

S.L. 74-33, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Hyatt Regency Hotel, Resubmission. Mr. Ralph Steinglass of Welton Beckett and Associates, the architect, represented the project. After Mr. Steinglass indicated that there had been some restudy since the submission of his material, he presented several refined sketches showing a third treatment of the large two-floor corner suite windows, and a refined version of the bridge. The Chairman indicated that the Commission approved of the lobby changes and the consensus was that the third scheme for the corner windows, subdividing them, was an improvement. The Commission asked for restudy of the top floor and possible return to the original bridge design. Mr. Steinglass agreed to restudy the elements mentioned and to resubmit for the next meeting. EXHIBIT 5.

C. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Bus Stop Signs. The project was represented by Messers E. Mevorah of WMATA, and R. J. Karn of Harry Weese and Associates. Mr. Karn described the design and the reasons for the color scheme, after which the Chairman indicated the Commission approval of the flag motif and disapproval of the white pole. The action was a recommendation for further restudy of the color and material of the pole. The Commission also recommended lowering the sign to be approximately eight feet overall. EXHIBIT 6.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

93D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 841

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 1973

Mr. PICKLE (for himself, Mr. O'NEILL, Mr. MCFALL, Mr. GERALD R. FORD, Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois, Mr. ARENDS, Mrs. BOGGS, Mr. BLATNIK, Mr. PATMAN, Mr. MAHON, and Mr. GRAY) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the establishment of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac.

Whereas friends and admirers of the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson wish to pay tribute to him by developing a living memorial in the form of a Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac and have formed a committee, in cooperation with the Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, Incorporated, a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the District of Columbia on April 21, 1965, to that end;

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Interior is authorized to cooperate with the Committee for a Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial

EXHIBIT 1

Grove on the Potomac and the Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, Incorporated, in developing an appropriate memorial in the form of a living grove of trees and related facilities to honor Lyndon Baines Johnson, the thirty-sixth President of the United States.

SEC. 2. The grove shall be located on a portion of the land designated by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1968, as Lady Bird Johnson Park, Washington, District of Columbia. The design of the grove shall be subject to the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.

93D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 841

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the establishment of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac.

By MR. PICKLE, MR. O'NEILL, MR. MCFALL, MR. GERALD R. FORD, MR. ANDERSON of Illinois, MR. ARENDS, MRS. BOGGS, MR. BLATNIK, MR. PATMAN, MR. MAHON, and MR. GRAY

DECEMBER 3, 1973
Referred to the Committee on Public Works

93D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 842

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 1973

Mr. PATMAN (for himself, Mr. MAHON, Mr. POAGE, Mr. FISHER, Mr. TEAGUE of Texas, Mr. BURLESON of Texas, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. YOUNG of Texas, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CASEY of Texas, Mr. PICKLE, Mr. WHITE, Mr. KAZEN, Mr. DE LA GARZA, Mr. MILFORD, Mr. ECKHARDT, Miss JORDAN, Mr. CHARLES WILSON of Texas, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. COLLINS of Texas, Mr. PRICE of Texas and Mr. STEELMAN) introduced the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the establishment of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac.

Whereas friends and admirers of the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson wish to pay tribute to him by developing a living memorial in the form of a Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac and have formed a committee, in cooperation with The Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, Incorporated, a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the District of Columbia on April 21, 1965, to that end;

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to cooperate with the Committee for a Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac and The Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, Incorporated, in developing an appropriate memorial in the form of a living grove of trees and related facilities to honor Lyndon Baines Johnson, the thirty-sixth President of the United States.

SEC. 2. The grove shall be located on a portion of the land designated by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1968, as Lady Bird Johnson Park, Washington, District of Columbia. The design of the grove shall be subject to the approval of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.

93D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 842

JOINT RESOLUTION

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By Mr. PATMAN, Mr. MAHON, Mr. POAGE, Mr. FISHER, Mr. TEAGUE of Texas, Mr. BURLESON of Texas, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. YOUNG of Texas, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CASEY of Texas, Mr. PICKLE, Mr. WHITE, Mr. KAZEN, Mr. DE LA GARZA, Mr. MILFORD, Mr. ECKHARDT, Miss JORDAN, Mr. CHARLES WILSON of Texas, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. COLLINS of Texas, Mr. PRICE of Texas, and Mr. STEELMAN

DECEMBER 3, 1973
Referred to the Committee on Public Works

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
FEB 1 1974
NOTED

January 15, 1974

Dear Carter:

I was asked by the other members of the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on January 8, 1974 to act as spokesman, because of your absence from all parts of the presentation and deliberation, and to report to you our findings on the design for the plaza connecting the East Gallery to the existing National Gallery building at 4th Street, N. W.

I am happy to confirm our summary following the presentation that the design was enthusiastically approved as presented. We would merely like to supplement our approval with comments on three aspects of the project.

The most important is the need for special lighting fixtures to illuminate areas of the plaza, but especially the 4th Street right-of-way. To allow conventional highway lighting with high levels of brightness to bisect the plaza would be a serious error, and would greatly diminish the concept of the plaza as a unifying element between the two Galleries. Rows of conventional lighting standards of normal height would also severely disrupt the space of the plaza during the day, and their commonplace appearance would be an unfortunate contrast with the more sophisticated features of the plaza design.

We would hope that trees and other landscaping immediately adjoining the plaza can be as rich and verdant as the existing planting now found around the present Gallery. The openness of the plaza needs the contrast of surrounding planting to be most effective.

Finally one remaining detail: some concern was expressed over the dimensions of the fountain, especially in regard to the height of the glass pipes which are to supply the columns of water. It is our understanding that the fountain is to be studied in detail under a variety of simulated wind conditions. Special care should be taken at this stage to study the proportions and "thickness," as it were, of the massing of the water.

Sincerely yours,

Edward D. Stone, Jr.

EDS,Jr:JF

J. Carter Brown, Director
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C. 20565

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
JANE O. DART — EDWARD STONE, JR.
KEVIN ROCHE — GEORGE WEYMOUTH
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

15 January, 1974

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I am writing to report the Commission of Fine Arts action, on January 8, 1974, regarding the designs for an office and garage addition to the headquarters of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners at 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. (S.L. 74-35).

The designs were disapproved.

There was a lack of unity, a disparity of scale and proportion, and an overall sense of confusion in the elements of the facades.

The entire project should be restudied, with a view toward tying the new elements in with the existing in a much more simplified manner and screening the cars in the parking building more effectively.

We suggest that the architect present these restudies in sketch form. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 20, and we would be happy to look at any new material at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

John R. Nelson, Chief
Permit Branch
D.C. Department of Economic Development
614 H Street, N.W., Room 103
Washington, D.C. 20001

EXHIBIT 3

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
JANE O. DART — EDWARD STONE, JR.
KEVIN ROCHE — GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

22 January, 1974

Dear Mr. Jorgensen,

This will confirm the Commission of Fine Arts action on the sixth floor Library Addition to the Museum of History and Technology, which was reported informally to representatives of the Smithsonian and GSA at our meeting on January 8, 1974.

We feel that the increased height to the existing outer penthouse walls, some 3'6" to 4'0" overall, does not materially affect the appearance of the Museum building. In fact, as was pointed out at the meeting by the architect Mr. Cain, there may be some marginal improvement since the signtlines of the higher inner penthouse wall will be moved back somewhat thus increasing the screening of its surfaces.

We do not feel that the window openings have been completely resolved. The small square windows on the north and south walls of the penthouse obviously do little for the interior spaces of the library, and even less for the exterior appearance. Most likely they should be eliminated and the present solidity of the penthouse wall preserved.

The matter is less clear on the east and west walls, there being some justification for providing window areas in the particular spaces served. Whether or not the strip windows are the best solution remains questionable.

We would therefore like to see further study on the fenestration of the entire penthouse addition. It may well be that elimination of all openings in the wall surfaces is the preferred scheme, with possible resort to skylighting.

EXHIBIT 4

We will be meeting on February 20, 1974, and will be happy to look at any new material at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

George N. Jorgensen, Acting Director
Design and Construction Division
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

Copy to: Joseph Milano, GSA

JCB/CHA:nl

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

16 January, 1974

Dear Mr. Jorgensen,

I am writing to report the action of the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on January 8, 1974, regarding the erection of an exterior elevator on the West End Heating Plant at 29th and K Streets, N.W.

The Commission not only disapproved the design of the proposed elevator, but more significantly, it disapproved the concept of tacking on any additional elements on the exterior facades of this building. The Heating Plant is a massive structure, but it has the virtue of simplicity in its present form. To add on extraneous elements to the surface of this mass would only serve to create a conspicuous eyesore. Certainly there must be some way the elevator can be incorporated on the interior. We strongly recommend such a path be pursued.

Our next meetings are scheduled for the 20th of February and the 20th of March.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

George N. Jorgensen, Acting Director
Design and Construction Division
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

15 January, 1974

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I would like to report the action of the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on January 8, 1974, on the revised designs for a new hotel at 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. (S.L. 74-33).

The Commission thought there was a definite improvement in the design of the entrance lobby, a large glass-roofed structure located within the interior courtyard. The present girder and truss structure results in a more pleasing form than was the case with the stepped scheme employing a series of clerestories.

Other elements of the facade seem less successful than the initial submission. While the Commission had earlier pointed out the need for some recognition of structure in the design of the two floors spanning the entrance to the courtyard, we did not intend such a contrasting articulation of this element, which in its present form contradicts the "punched hole" and surface quality common to the rest of the design. It is our belief that retaining the latter character gives the opening to the court any real drama it will have. Otherwose it will have the appearance of a bridge connecting two buildings after the fact, which is not desirable.

We also question the proposed treatment of the top floor. Again the continuation of the same design for this floor as applied to the other floors seemed more successful in the original design, than setting it off so unrelatedly as shown in the revised scheme. It is understood that the initial scheme was not accurate in its dimension from the top of the windows to the parapet, and that for a number of reasons, a much narrower dimension is required. While the architect rejected this and developed a different approach to the design, the Commission would still like to see this presented as a possible solution. We would also welcome any further studies that might incorporate either a projection or setback of all or

part of the top floor as additional solutions. In doing so, special attention should be given to the transition in surface treatment where the top floor meets the next lower floor on the portion bridging the courtyard and entrance lobby. There was no resolution of this problem in the revised scheme.

The Commission did not make any formal comment on the color of the proposed exterior material. It was noted, however, that the architect is considering a relatively dark brown brick as a possibility. While we will be happy to examine any material submitted for review, it should be pointed out that the only other dark brick building of such magnitude and so close to the Capitol is the Government Printing Office, and I think most people agree it is unfortunate.

We will be meeting again on February 20 and March 20, and will be happy to look over new material at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

John R. Nelson, Chief
Permit Branch
D.C. Department of Economic Development
614 H Street, N.W., Room 103
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

22 January, 1974

Dear Mr. Thresher,

We were happy to have the opportunity, at our meeting on January 8, 1974, to view the mockup for the new bus stop signs proposed for Washington. Needless to say, the design is a matter of particular concern to the Commission of Fine Arts. Because of the large number of these signs - some 7,500 - they will have a decided impact on the appearance of Washington's streets. So it was with considerable care and attention that the Commission viewed the design.

Our first question was one of color. We have no argument with the red-white-and-blue scheme of the lettered and numbered panels of the sign itself; our argument is with the painted white finish of the supporting stanchion. Nowhere else on the Washington scene does such an element occur, in either signs, lighting standards, or any other street furniture. The general tone throughout our public spaces is muted, for the very good reason that there has been a conscious effort to suppress the multitude and variety of street elements into a relatively common denominator. So the stark white stanchion, in our view, would be a disruptive element and therefore a mistake.

The Commission's inclination was toward an anodized bronze - not only because of the muted tone, but more particularly because it related directly to the material of the new bus shelters in town. It seemed immenently reasonable to tie these elements together.

Another solution would be a natural metal finish, preferably that of a burnished aluminum. While lighter in reflective value than the bronze, it has none of the disadvantages of a painted white finish, and it goes well with the printed informational signs, clearly delineating the structural element. Furthermore, it comes close to matching the stainless steel and red-white-and-blue scheme of the new buses, a handsome combination and a very reasonable identity.

EXHIBIT 6

Short of the natural finish, a painted light grey metal finish would be our third choice, but a distinct third, I should emphasize. While it clearly would be in the general color palette of Washington street furniture, it would not have the distinction or character of the natural metal.

As to the design itself, our reaction was favorable except that we thought the scheduling sign was too high. The scheduling information was virtually unreadable to us, even at very close distances. However, I think this could be corrected by lowering both signs about 1'6" to 2'0", for a total height around 8'0". As a way of determining the final height and color scheme of the signs, we would like to suggest that a couple of additional mockups be erected outdoors and examined together with existing street elements, including a bus. We did this once before on an earlier study, and found it a very helpful way of gauging the total effect. The total effect in this case is considerable, and should be carefully tested before any decisions are made on a final design.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Sprague Thresher, Director
Office of Architecture
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
950 South L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20020024

JCB/CHA:nl

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

8 January, 1974

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
OG 74-		
69	*1241 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.* *The Bootery, Inc.*	*Sign attached flat on face of bay show window approximately 9' above grade.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. 12/7/73*	
70	*2439 P Street, N.W.* *Mrs. Constance Healy*	*Replace existing double hung windows with new wood casement as per plans.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Windows and door to be representative of period of house. Suggest Victorian-style 2/2 sash. 12/7/73*	
71	*1236 33rd Street, N.W.* *Roger Panley*	*Enlarge kitchen window to 4'4" x 2'9" - picture.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Request submission of elevation showing exact proposed changes, location on exterior and appearance. 12/7/73*	
72	*3205 R Street, N.W.* *Michael M. Rea*	*Additions at rear, deck and patio, alterations to existing garage (used as pool storage).*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Restudy rear elevation, aligning rear windows vertically. 12/7/73*	
73	*3057 M Street, N.W.* *Steve Panagos*	*Repaint sign.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Suggest relettering with more appropriate Roman letters. 12/7/73*	
74	*3233 K Street, N.W.* *Georgetown Floor Coverings*	*Sign, 3' x 8' (resubmission refer to OG 74-64).*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. See previous action. Recommend non-illuminated painted sign, matte finish, Roman letters. 12/7/73*	
75	*1543 33rd Street, N.W.* *James R. Chapman*	*Stairway from front stairway level to basement.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 12/7/73*	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

8 January, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 74-76	3124 M Street, N.W. Alrob Enterprizes, Inc.	New sign (resubmission refer to OG 73-168).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Design of sign not recommended. Recommend investigation of legality of facade. Re OG 73-168, letter to Mr. Harris, 20 December, 1973. 12/19/73	
77	3160 O Street, N.W. Jos. & Sam Levin	Sign to indicate where atelier of Dorothy Preston is (second floor)(resubmission refer to OG 74-28).
ACTION:	Issue permit for hanging sign "Preston-Studio" only. Other illegal signs should be removed. 12/19/73	
78	1539 27th Street, N.W. Jack Starr	New private residence.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Basic plan and site arrangement good. Question front yard parking on 27th and O Streets. Suggest perimeter brick wall without grilled openings. Recommend total restudy of roof design and central entrance motif. Suggest somewhat smaller sash in general and fewer openings on 27th Street (i.e. one for dining room and two for living room). Request exact information about roof top use and/or equipment. Request material samples. Board and Staff will be happy to meet with architect. 12/19/73	
79	1259 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. CJ Concepts, Inc.	Place letters on exterior front to form name of shop and items sold (resubmission refer to OG 73-150).
ACTION:	Issue permit for "Crumpets" only. 12/19/73	
80	1236 33rd Street, N.W. Roger Panley	Change double hung window 3' x 4' to 2 - 2'6" x 3' windows north side of house, first floor rear (resubmission refer to OG 74-71).
ACTION:	Issue permit for double sash to match existing double sash. 12/19/73	
81	3009 Dumbarton Street, N.W. Michael Levu	Construct three-floor room rear of existing residence.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/19/73	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

8 January, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 74-22	1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Benenson Capital Company	Remove existing non-structural interior partitions, ceilings, plumbing, electrical work, and non-structural elements of all facades. Work to be accomplished to explore existing building structure in order to prepare necessary drawings for remodeling of the building.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Removal of exterior architectural features of this historic landmark not recommended. Defacing or incompatible alteration of this facade is not in the public interest. 11/26/73	
25	811 Market Space, N.W. Amy Goldstein & Ruth Small	Store front sign - 2' x 20' x 3".
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Oversize sign not recommended. Multiple signs on windows and awning not recommended. Suggest less bright color with equal white space (volume) between letters limited to 25 square feet. Text on sign should be limited to name of business only, not itemization of products sold. 11/26/73	
29	101 D Street, N.W. L. A. Collins	Canvas awning.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 11/29/73	
30	500 19th Street, N.W. Home Federal Savings	Application for signage for new branch office.
ACTION:	Issue permit for upper sign only. Logo sign exceeds allowable square footage. Suggest logo behind glass. 11/29/73	
31	747 4th Street, N.W. Charles Sebastian Vaccaro	Remove boards, replace with solid panels 24" high and 48" high of Lexan, on two picture windows.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/4/73	
32	101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners	New parking structure and office building addition.
ACTION:	VOID. Superceded by S.L. 74-35. 12/28/73	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

8 January, 1974

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
SL 74-		
34	*3000 Birch Street, N.W.* *Amy Ruth Mahin & Lois M. Beckett*	*One room addition to private residence.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 1/4/74*	
36	*2626 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.* *Savage Fogarty Company*	*New office building - working drawing submission refer to SL 74-6 & 73-54.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. Submit final brick selection. 1/4/74*	